

Application No. 10/705,533

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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1. (currently amended) A polishing pad for use in chemical-mechanical polishing comprising a biodegradable polymer, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises (a) a repeat unit selected from the group consisting of L-lactic acid, D-lactic acid, or a combination thereof; or (b) a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyglycolide, polycaprolactone, poly(dioxanone), poly(trimethylene carbonate), polyglyconate, polyhydroxybutyrate, polyhydroxyvalerate, poly(1,4-butylene succinate), poly(1,4-butylene adipate), polyanhydrides, polyorthoesters, DL-polylactide, D-polylactide, L-polylactide, poly(DL-lactide-co-glycolide), poly(ethylene glycol-co-lactide), poly(L-lactide-co-caprolactone-co-glycolide), and combinations thereof[[,]] ; and wherein the polishing pad has a polishing surface and is in the form of micropellets of the biodegradable polymer dispersed in a non-biodegradable polymer resin.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The polishing pad of claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer is cross-linked.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (original) The polishing pad of claim 1, wherein the polishing pad further comprises abrasive particles.

7. (original) The polishing pad of claim 6, wherein the abrasive particles are selected from metal oxide particles, boron nitride particles, diamond particles, ceramic particles, and combinations thereof.

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8. (original) The polishing pad of claim 6, wherein the abrasive particles are disposed on a polishing surface of the polishing pad or are dispersed throughout the body of the polishing pad.

9.-12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The polishing pad of claim 1, wherein the non-biodegradable polymer resin is selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic elastomers, thermoplastic polyurethanes, thermoplastic polyolefins, polycarbonates, polyvinylalcohols, nylons, elastomeric rubbers, elastomeric polyethylenes, polytetrafluoroethylenes, polyethyleneterephthalates, polyimides, polyaramides, polyarylenes, polystyrenes, polymethylmethacrylic acids, polyethylene oxides, rubbers, copolymers thereof, and mixtures thereof.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

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24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)